

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11428 121234Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 NEAE-00 /057 W  
-----119970 121238Z /50

P R 121148Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5384  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT PGOV IN  
SUBJECT: PM EXPANDS HIS MINISTRY

1. IN A LONG-AWAITED MOVE REPORTEDLY DELAYED SEVERAL  
TIMES BY DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE JANATA PARTY, PRIME MINISTER  
DESAI LATE ON AUGUST 11 EXPANDED HIS FOUR-AND-A-HALF MONTH  
OLD MINISTRY BY NAMING 24 MINISTERS OF STATE. THE MINISTRY  
NOW COMPRISES 44 MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE 19 ORIGINAL  
CABINET-RANK MINISTERS APPOINTED IN LATE MARCH AND MORARJI  
HIMSELF. THE NEW MINISTERS OF STATE WILL BE SWORN IN  
ON AUGUST 14 AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF PORTFOLIOS TO THEM  
WILL PRESUMABLY BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

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2. A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW MEMBERS SUGGESTS  
THAT THE PM ENDEAVORED TO INCLUDE AS BROAD A RANGE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES FROM CASTE, COMMUNAL AND REGIONAL GROUPS  
AS THE JANATA PARTY'S COMPOSITION ALLOWED. AMONG THE  
NEW MINISTERS OF STATE ARE TWO WOMEN, THREE MUSLIMS,  
AND A GENEROUS PROPORTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES. GIVEN THE JANATA'S POSITION AS A PARTY LARGELY CONFINED TO THE NORTHERN STATES, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT 19 OF THE 24 COME FROM HINDI-SPEAKING STATES (FIVE FROM BIHAR AND SIX FROM UP ALONE). A PRELIMINARY LOOK AT THE PREVIOUS-PARTY ALLEGIANCE OF THE NEW MEMBERS INDICATES THAT THE JANA SANGH AND BLD RECEIVED THE BULK OF THE MINISTERSHIPS. OF THE 19 WHOM WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY THUS FAR, SIX FORMERLY BELONGED TO THE BLD, SEVEN TO THE JANA SANGH, TWO TO CONGRESS (O), ONE EACH TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND CFD. ONE OTHER IS A SO-CALLED CONGRESS REBEL. ADDITIONALLY, ONE AKALI DAL MP HAS ALSO BEEN NAMED.

3. CONTRARY TO EARLIER SPECULATION, DESAI HAS NOT DROPPED ANY MEMBERS OF HIS ORIGINAL CABINET. HOWEVER, THE CURRENT FEELING HERE IS THAT ONE OR MORE OF THE REPUTEDLY INCOMPETENT CABINET-RANK MINISTERS MAY RECEIVE LESS IMPORTANT POSITIONS WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS IS ANNOUNCED, SOMEWHAT IN THE SAME MANNER AS OCCURRED LAST MONTH WHEN BRIJ LAL VERMA WAS "DEMOTED" FROM THE INDUSTRY TO THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY.

4. WE WILL SUBMIT A MESSAGE EARLY NEXT WEEK PROVIDING FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE MINISTRY EXPANSION AS WELL AS BASIC BIO DATA ON THE NEW MINISTERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NEWDE11428  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Message ID:** f84c755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PM EXPANDS HIS MINISTRY  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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